National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas

Tram safety

Space Center Houston trams are experiencing safety hazards with pedestrians and cars at JSC. Story on Page 3.

Quality award

DynaCorp hands out its highest quality award to JSC employees at Ellington Field. Photo on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

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NASA budget remains stable in fiscal 1997

Agency budget of $13.8 billion includes $3.2 billion for JSC

NASA's budget will drop by little more than a tenth of a percent in fiscal 1997, Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said Tuesday, maintaining stable funding for the space program in an era when almost all agencies' budgets are declining, some precipitously.

The 1997 budget totals just over $13.8 billion, a reduction of 0.11 percent from last year's total budget authority of $13.82 billion. It includes $5.36 billion for human space flight, $5.8 billion for science, aeronautics and technology, and $2.56 billion for mission support.

JSC's total fiscal 1997 budget will be just under $3.2 billion.

"We asked for stable funding through fiscal '97, and that's exactly what the President's budget gives us," Goldin said. "This will allow us to continue to restructure NASA in an orderly and well thought-out way. We will continue to deliver a space and aeronautics program that is relevant, balanced and stable, and we will protect the human dignity of our employees and our contractors."

The budget is consistent with NASA's strategy of absorbing a 36 percent cut through the year 2000 while maintaining near-term funding stability, he added, and will allow the agency to ensure safety and real cost savings while eliminating overlap and low priority support, but not essential programs.

Goldin ruled out any Reduction in Force for fiscal 1996, but said continued success in restructuring will be required to stave off such measures as the agency works toward its fiscal 2000 goal of 17,500 employees. Buyouts and other management tools have allowed NASA to downsize from 25,000 to 21,000 employees over the past two years in an orderly and dignified manner, he said.

The human space flight portion of the budget includes $1.8 billion for development, support and operations of the International Space Station, $138 million for the U.S./Russian cooperative program, $3.15 billion for space shuttle operations, and $271 million for payload operations including Spacelab and associated processing, engineering

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Commander, pilot named for STS-82

By Eileen Hawley

Astronauts Ken Bowersox and Scott Horowitz have been named to command and pilot, respectively, the second space shuttle mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope scheduled for early next year.

They join Payload Commander Mark Lee, Greg Harbaugh, Steve Smith and Joe Tanner who were named in May 1995 as the space walkers for the mission. Steve Hawley, who will serve as the flight engineer and primary remote manipulator system operator, was named to the crew in February.

Bowersox

The 10-day STS-82 mission currently includes four planned space walks. The four extravehicular activity crewmembers will alternate on the space walks to accomplish a number of equipment changeouts and upgrades on the telescope. Major equipment changeouts include two science instruments and a data interface unit. The instruments are the Near Infrared Camera Multi-Object Spectrometer and the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph.

Horowitz

Bowersox has held a variety of assignments including: flight software testing in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory; technical assistant to the director of Flight Crew Operations; Astronaut Office representative for Orbiter landing and rollout issues; chief of the Astronaut Office Safety Branch; and chairman of the Spaceflight Safety Panel.

A three flight veteran, Bowersox has logged more than 39 days in space. He flew as pilot on STS-50 in 1992 and STS-61 in 1993, and was commander of STS-73 in 1995. STS-50 was the first flight of the United States Microgravity Laboratory and the first Extended Duration Orbiter flight. STS-61 was the first Hubble Space Telescope servicing and repair mission. STS-73 was the second flight of the United States Microgravity Laboratory.

Scott has worked technical issues for the Astronaut Office Operations Development Branch and has supported crew for shuttle launches and landings. Horowitz served as pilot on STS-75.

NASA Photo

The STS-76 crew takes a break during the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test. From left are Pilot Rick Searfoss, Commander Kevin Chilton and Mission Specialists Shannon Lucid, Linda Godwin, Ron Sega and Rich Clifford. *Atlantis* is expected to liftoff from Kennedy Space Center Thursday and dock with the Russian Mir Space Station late Friday.

Atlantis ships Lucid to Mir space station

By James Hartsfield

The countdown for the third shuttle docking with the Russian Mir Space Station proceeded smoothly this week, although forecasters were predicting only a 20 percent chance of acceptable launch weather for *Atlantis*' planned 2:35 a.m. CST Thursday liftoff.

However, the forecast improved greatly for early today—calling for an 80 percent chance of acceptable weather. A launch today would take place at 2:13 a.m. CST. Thursday's launch window totaled about 10 minutes, while a seven-minute launch window was available today for *Atlantis* to take aim at the Mir.

Work on the countdown was delayed slightly at KSC late Monday as strong thunderstorms passed through the launch pad area, however the time was made up and the countdown back on schedule by Tuesday afternoon.

The crew of STS-76—Commander Kevin Chilton; Pilot Rick Searfoss; Mission Specialist Shannon Lucid, who will become a Mir-21 crew member after docking; and Mission Specialists Rich Clifford, Linda Godwin and Ron Sega—arrived at KSC just after midnight Monday in preparation for the launch. A Thursday

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Fifteenth STS-1 anniversary celebration set for April

The 15th anniversary of STS-1 is just around the corner and JSC will celebrate with a "Liftoff Party."

This celebration, patterned after the legendary splashdown/post-landing parties of years past will be from 4:30-7:30 p.m. April 12 at the Gilruth Center.

STS-1 Commander John Young, space shuttle program officials and astronauts will share their memories of this historic mission. The party will draw together current and former JSC civil servant and contractor employees to relive memories and renew friendships.

Tickets are $4 and are on sale at the JSC Exchange Store in Bldg. 11. Ticket prices increase to $6 April 9. The price includes beer, wine, soft drinks, light snacks and a commemorative button. James Coney Island will be on hand with hot dogs for purchase.

Live music will be provided by the "Southern Cross" band. The Exchange Store will have souvenir items at the party available for purchase.

STS-1 was launched April 12, 1981 with Commander John Young and Pilot Robert Crippen. The primary objective of the mission was to check out the overall shuttle system, accomplish a safe ascent into orbit and to return to Earth for a safe landing. All of these objectives were met successfully and *Columbia*'s worthiness as a reuseable space vehicle was verified.

The only payload carried on the mission was a Development Flight Instrumentation package that contained sensors and measuring devices to record orbiter performance and the stresses that occurred during launch, ascent, orbital flight, descent and landing.

The first shuttle flight lasted two days, six hours, 20 min and 53 seconds. *Columbia* came through the flight with flying colors, and it was to fly the next four shuttle missions.

For additional information on the anniversary party call Ginger Gibson, x30596 or Teresa Sullivan, x38970.

Lawrence named new manager in Russia

By Kyle Herring

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence will replace Charlie Precourt as the NASA manager of operational activities at Star City, Russia.

As Director of Operations, Russia, Lawrence will support training and preparations of NASA astronauts at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City. She also will be the primary link between NASA and the GCTC management, coordinating all training and other operations involving NASA or contractor personnel in Star City.

Lawrence, the sixth astronaut to serve in this rotational assignment will continue to establish operational and managerial relationships with Star City management and Russian cosmonauts. These relationships are pivotal to successful, long-term joint operations involving NASA, the Russian Space Agency and GCTC.

Lawrence will leave for Russia this month and join fellow astronauts John Blaha, Jerry Linenger, Mike Foale and James Voss, who are training in Star City. Precourt will return to JSC to begin training as commander of the sixth shuttle/Mir docking mission, STS-84.

Lawrence's technical assignments within the Astronaut Office have included: flight software verification in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory and as an Assistant Training Officer. Lawrence flew as a mission specialist on STS-67 in March 1995. This mission was the second flight of the ASTRO observatory, a unique complement of three telescopes. During the 16-day mission, the crew conducted observations to study the far ultraviolet spectra of faint astronomical objects and the polarization of ultraviolet light from hot stars and distant galaxies.

Wendy Lawrence